00333

1960/08/10

August 10, 1960

Synopsis of State and Intelligence material reported to the President
(9 August material)

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

GHANA AND CONGO

Lumumba and Nkrumah issued a joint statement in Accra yesterday. At the end, they reaffirmed their determination to work toward establishment of a Union of African Independent States. They condemned Belgian refusal to withdraw troops, and they agreed to issue invitations to a Summit Conference of African Independent States in Leopoldville August 25 to 30. Our Embassy there has been instructed to express our concern over Ghana's threat to undertake military action in the Congo outside UN auspices.

Tubman has disagreed with Nkrumah's decision to place Ghanaian troops at Congo's disposal. He agrees, however, with the proposal for a meeting of African States.

There is much opposition to Lumumba in the Congo, one organization being the Union of Congolese Workers. Other Provinces are withdrawing and there is some indication that Kasavubu's party, which has heretofore worked with Lumumba, may split off their support.

LAOS

An uprising of undetermined magnitude has occurred in Laos. [redacted] a second parachute battalion under the command of Captain Kong Le seized control of Vietiane and a nearby Army base. This action may have had the secret backing of certain high ranking Army officers. The objective of the takeover is unclear; however, one pamphlet exhorts Lao patriots to seize "the government that demands money from the great powers." This suggests that the revolutionaries may seek a more neutralist alignment. Phoumi is at a disadvantage of having his forces spread all over Laos. In Bangkok, SEATO Secretary General Pote Sarasin is calling a special Council to exchange information on this reported coup.

CUBA

Bonsal suggests that any reaction to Castro's seisure of U.S.

~~TOP SECRET~~

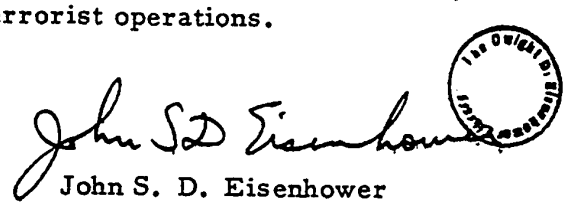
DECLASSIFIED WITH DELETIONS
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.6(b)
Agency Case EO-1998-00011
NLE Case 98-113-7
By BBM NLE Date 1/27/99

property might include (1) a US statement deploring the inmoderate attack by Castro; (2) Departmental statement repeating our denunciation of the July 16th Cuban expropriation law, and (3) establishment by the US of a claims commission to study and appraise claims of US citizens against the Cuban Government. Bonsal thinks that the funds for the claims settlement can be made available through taxes levied on Cuban imports into the US without increasing the costs to US consumers.

Meanwhile, a further report comes in that Kubitschek is purposely winking at the Cuban difficulty on the basis that it gives him a pry to blackmail the US for support for his Operation Pan America. Kubitschek's policy is based on the views of a key advisor, Frederico Schmidt. Foreign Minister Lafer advocates a hard line but is not able to see his views. Schmidt has argued that "a certain amount of communism in Brazil" is necessary for bargaining purposes.

SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist guerrilla bands continue widespread attacks. Recently bands of 400 or more have engaged regular Vietnamese army units. The Government has been studying recommendations of the Malayan mission for strengthening anti-terrorist operations.



John S. D. Eisenhower
Lt Colonel, USA